

## 12.146 OHIO RIVER EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION PLAN

### **Reference:**

Procedure 12.145 - Plan for Major Disasters,  
Aircraft Crashes, and Other  
Incidents Requiring Coordination  
with Other Agencies  
Procedure 12.170 - Civil Disturbance Operation  
Procedure  
Procedure 12.300 - Investigation of Bombs and Bomb  
Threats  
Procedure 12.305 - Disposal of Radioactive  
Materials, Dangerous War  
Souvenirs and Explosives  
Field Supervisor's CDOP Manual  
Standards Manual - 46.1.2, 46.1.8

### **Information:**

The Cincinnati Police Communications Section (PCS) is the central agency for initiating emergency notification of agencies affected by marine disasters, or potential marine disasters with the possibility of loss of life, in the area encompassing a 35 mile stretch of the Ohio River. This area, beginning just east of the I-275 bridge on the east side of Hamilton County and extending to the Ohio-Indiana border on the west, includes the Licking and Great Miami Rivers. Twenty-three different police agencies from Ohio and Kentucky are included in this area.

As the central notification agency, PCS's responsibilities to its related agencies are advisory only. However, any marine emergency affecting the City of Cincinnati, including water intake, must be recognized.

The officer in charge (OIC) of the affected district will determine the priority of the incident.

### **General Classes of Incidents:**

Priority 1 - Any incident with the potential to threaten significant amounts of the population or a large area of the river with the potential for a general evacuation.

Priority 2 - An incident that presents a significant threat to a localized area or areas. A general evacuation is not needed; may require a local evacuation.

Priority 3 - A serious accident or incident involving a manned vessel with fatality, injury, or the potential for same. Minimum threat to land base or river facility with no evacuation.

**Procedure:**

- A. An officer who becomes aware of an emergency situation in the river areas described above will contact PCS and give the following information:
  - 1. Nature of emergency - runaway barge, chemical spill, boat fire, drowning, etc.
  - 2. Location, by river mile marker (if known), by land address, and/or prominent landmark.
    - a. If the emergency is moving, note its direction and approximate speed. (The normal Ohio River current speed is between 5 and 8 miles per hour).
  - 3. Identification of vessel(s), person(s), and facilities involved.
    - a. If the vessel has cargo, attempt to determine type of the cargo. This information will facilitate the proper response.
- B. PCS will:
  - 1. Notify the Coast Guard.
  - 2. Notify the Fire Division and other potentially affected public agencies, i.e., Hamilton County Sheriff's River Patrol, Cincinnati Water Works, Hamilton County Underwater Search and Rescue Team, etc.
  - 3. Monitor the National Marine Distress Calling frequency via marine radio.

4. Notify the OIC of the affected district(s) via radio.
  - a. The OIC will be responsible for the coordination of the Division's response with other responding agencies.
- C. Police Division Response to River Emergencies:
  1. Types of action the Police Division could take:
    - a. Evacuation of residential and other land areas, marinas, floating restaurants, etc., affected or potentially affected by the emergency.
    - b. Closure of the Public Landing, parks, or other riverfront recreational areas.
    - c. Closure of bridges.
- D. The Tactical Planning/SWAT Unit will maintain and update an operational Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for responses to river emergencies.
- E. Districts 1, 2, and 3 will each keep a copy of the river emergency SOP at the district front desk and in the supervisors' field Civil Disturbance Operation Procedure (CDOP) manuals.
  1. Districts are responsible for notification of affected areas in their jurisdictions, not PCS.
  2. Districts 1, 2, and 3, will maintain and update an emergency notification list of potentially affected locations within their respective boundaries.
    - a. Notify restaurants, head-boats at marinas, industrial and commercial sites along the river, etc., of the potential for danger and the possibility of evacuation.
    - b. The list will be updated immediately upon learning of a change.

- c. Districts 1, 2, and 3 will review and update their respective lists annually in conjunction with the first CDOP inventory in June.
  - d. The list will be kept appended to all copies of their respective river emergency SOP.
  - e. Districts 1, 2, and 3 are responsible for ensuring that the Tactical Planning/SWAT Unit is sent a copy of their current respective emergency notification lists.
- F. The OIC of the affected districts will complete an after action report on all marine disasters or potential disasters and forward it, through the chain of command, to the Police Chief's Office.

This procedure appears in the main Procedure Manual Index in the following locations:

Page 47

Marine disasters (river emergencies) 12.146

Page 52

Ohio River Emergency Notification Plan 12.146

Page 66

REQUESTS:

River Emergencies 12.146

River emergency priority classes - p. 1